



The TRUMPET

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | Spring 2018

Wildfires in Kansas

Kansas' Coordinated Wildfire Response

Also in this issue:

- Active Shooter Variances
- Home Safety for People with Disabilities
- Campfire Safety
- Smoke Alarm Sensitivity

Cover Photo: One of nine Kansas Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopters deployed to support firefighting efforts in Ellis, Wabaunsee and Greenwood counties drops water to combat the blaze on March 8, 2018. Photo courtesy of Kenady Deever, 11 years old, Auburn, KS.,

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

As another active wildfire season in Kansas winds down, I would like to express my appreciation and recognition of the outstanding work and cooperation of our Kansas first responders and partnering agencies. Our precise and coordinated efforts, I believe, greatly reduced the risk of danger to our citizens and kept our property losses at a minimum. I would like to personally thank the leadership and the staffs of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Kansas Forest Service, as well as the many local jurisdictions who responded, for their tireless efforts during this wildfire season.

In this issue, we highlight some of the images we were able to capture of the 2018 wildfires, our HazMat team's participation in a public safety exercise at the Kansas Speedway, as well as provide many useful fire safety tips we hope you will share.

I am very pleased to announce that the legislature and Governor Colyer approved our request to double the amount of our 2018 Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant to \$400,000. This will allow us to provide more of the much needed funds to the many volunteer fire departments across the state. We will be providing more details and information on the grant in the coming months.

Thank you for reading the Spring issue of *The Trumpet*. We hope you'll enjoy this issue, and please share it with friends, family and co-workers.

Sincerely,



Doug Jorgensen
State Fire Marshal



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HOT SPOTS @ OSFM

Randy Hegwald, Rod Leiker join Fire Prevention Inspection Team

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is pleased to welcome Randy Hegwald, who has joined our Prevention team as a Fire Prevention Inspector for Coffey, Lyon, Osage, Franklin and Douglas counties. Randy worked for the City of Yates Center in their public works department and as a fire investigator and training officer. He brings over 18 years of fire service experience to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Randy lives in Yates Center with his fiancé, Becky, and two children, Melanie and Caleb. He enjoys being outdoors, fishing, kayaking and grilling.

"I always wanted a career in the fire service, and this is the perfect fit," Randy said. "I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with OSFM."



We are also pleased to welcome Rod Leiker to the Fire Prevention Inspection team, covering the north-central region in Kansas. Rod comes to OSFM from Fort Hays State University where he worked as an environmental safety technician. He brings over 20 years of experience to the team.

Rod lives in Hays with his wife and enjoys camping, fishing and hiking in his spare time.

"When this opportunity presented itself," Rod said, "I felt like it was something I could really contribute to."

Welcome Randy and Rod!



OUR MISSION

The agency's mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search & rescue incident responses.

OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Inspection
- Enforcement
- Plans Review
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Investigation
- Hazardous material incident mitigation
- Public education
- Coordination of search and rescue efforts

The TRUMPET

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STAY CONNECTED



Active 2018 Wildfire Season Fought with Coordinated State Response



Aerial view of March wildfire in Rice County. *Photo courtesy of the Kansas National Guard.*

Kansas had another active wildfire season this year, but thanks to the tireless efforts of all of our partnering agencies and first responders, acres burned and damages assessed were significantly minimized from previous years.

We do not have official numbers for 2018 as of publication, however, the number of large vegetation and wildfires is significantly less than the 2017 numbers, where we had 2,216 wildfires with 659,468 acres burned in March – May alone.

“I think our coordinated response to wildfires was much more targeted and organized this year,” Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal, said.

The 2018 Kansas Wildfire Outlook Seminar, which was held in December 2017, and sponsored by the Kansas Department of Emergency Management, the

Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Kansas Forest Service, served to provide education on fire suppression resources, weather and climatology outlook, resource request process, and the Kansas Mutual Aid System to emergency management personnel and first responders across the state.

This year, significant wildfires, which required state assistance, affected many counties in Kansas. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated multiple times in March and April due to Red Flag Fire Warnings and wildfires across the state. Blackhawk helicopters from the Kansas and Nebraska National Guards were requested and utilized via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to assist with aerial fire suppression.

Continued on Page 5



Kansas National Guard Blackhawk helicopter filling up bambi buckets on March 14 at El Dorado State Lake to fight wildfires in Kiowa, Labette, Montgomery, Rice and Seward counties. *Photo courtesy of Shelly Marbut.*

"I am proud of the work of our state fire service and the emergency management system," Jorgensen said. "It takes cooperation and coordination on many different levels to fight wildfires effectively in Kansas, and our state did a tremendous job this year."

Jorgensen would also like to remind everyone that human activities are the root cause of wildfires in Kansas, with 96 percent of them being caused or started by a person.

Kansans should avoid any activity that could create a spark and start a new fire. Open fires can quickly get out of control, even for experienced fire fighters, people should avoid open burning. Check with the local authorities in each county for information regarding county burn bans. Do not drive on or stop your car on dry or tallgrass because your exhaust can spark a fire; do not throw cigarettes on the ground. Check and re-check any recent fires for rekindling.



On March 14 there were 62 fires reported with approximately 17,310 acres burned. Eight Blackhawks were utilized for aerial fire suppression in Kiowa, Labette, Montgomery, Rice and Seward counties. *Photo courtesy of Shelly Marbut.*

Public safety exercise at Kansas Speedway:

Emergency services personnel from multiple agencies test response capabilities



The Office of the State Fire Marshal HazMat team, along with personnel from Civil Support Teams, the Kansas Speedway and other public safety agencies across the region participated in training exercises in March at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan. The exercise was designed to help agencies practice an integrated response to an attack at a public venue like the Speedway.



The disciplines represented included fire departments, police and sheriff's departments, emergency management agencies, the medical examiner's office, emergency medical services, and public safety communications.

The exercise scenario involved chemical, radiological, active shooter and explosive threats. Responders used radios, vehicles and other equipment as they would in a real-world event. Jurisdictions that participated include Wyandotte County, Jackson County, Johnson County and the cities of Leavenworth, Lenexa, Olathe, Overland Park, Shawnee, Topeka, Independence, Lee's Summit, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Officials from the Kansas Speedway were integral to the planning and also participated in this exercise. The 73rd and 7th Civil Support Teams, from the Kansas and Missouri National Guards, respectively conducted joint operations with regional specialty teams for hazardous materials, explosive ordinance devices and tactical operations.





Kansas Rescue Conference

October 17-19, 2018

Kansas Training Center/Crisis City
Salina, Kansas

Registration Information Coming Soon!

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The 2018 KANSAS RESCUE CONFERENCE is making a CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS. This year's conference will include a general session and breakouts on Day 1 in Salina and 12 hours of hands-on training conducted at Crisis City on Days 2 and 3.

PRESENTATION OPTIONS INCLUDE:

Keynote Presentation - The keynote presentation will be delivered in Building 365 at the National Guard Training Center in Salina on the morning of Day 1 (October 17). There is time for two, 45-minute presentations or one, 90-minute presentation.

Break Out Sessions - The break-out sessions will be conducted at the National Guard Training Center in Salina on the afternoon of Day 1 (October 17). The length of the break-out sessions is approximately 2 hours and each session will be delivered twice with a 15-30 minute break in between sessions.

HOT Training - The hands-on training sessions will be conducted at Crisis City on Days 2 and 3 (October 18-19), with eight hours of training on Day 2 and four hours of training on Day 3.

Questions? Contact, Randy Hill, Search & Rescue Coordinator, OSFM, at 785-207-4144 or randy.hill@ks.gov.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING A PRESENTATION IS JULY 2, 2018!!

For the most up-to-date information on this year's Kansas Rescue Conference visit our website at www.firemarshal.ks.gov.

Sensitivity Testing for Smoke Alarms in Facilities

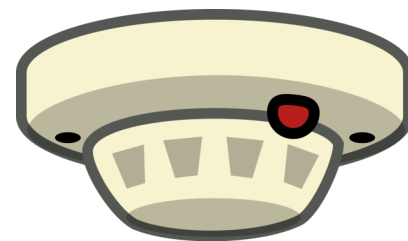
There are many requirements that a facility must keep track of when it comes to the fire code. One of the requirements that is often overlooked is sensitivity testing for smoke alarms. This testing is very important because it will tell the facility if their smoke alarms are calibrated to the correct level where it can properly work in the event of a fire.

The following information from 2010 NFPA 72 regarding sensitivity testing for smoke detectors is important to remember.



- Sensitivity testing is required within one year of install, two years after that and if there are no problems, may be extended to every five years – but only if records of nuisance alarms are maintained. **14.4.5.3.1**
- Sensitivity shall be checked within one year after installation. **14.4.5.3.2**
- Sensitivity shall be checked every alternate year, thereafter, unless otherwise permitted by compliance with 14.4.5.3.3. **14.4.5.3.3**

- After the second required calibration test, if sensitivity tests indicate that the device has remained within its listed and marked sensitivity range (or 4 percent obscuration light gray smoke, if not marked), the length of time between calibration tests shall be permitted to be extended to a maximum of five years. **14.4.5.3.3.1**
- If the frequency is extended, records of nuisance alarms and subsequent trends of these alarms shall be maintained. **14.4.5.3.3.2**
- In zones or in areas where nuisance alarms show any increase over the previous year, calibration tests shall be performed.



With this information provided, this should help facilities understand the process of sensitivity testing and how important it is to do. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact our office at joel.c.beckner@ks.gov.

2018 TECHNICAL SEARCH TRAINING:

Topeka Fire Training Center



Home Safety for People with Disabilities

There's no place like home. It is a place to relax, share laughs with family, and enjoy home cooked meals. But did you know that the majority of fire deaths occur in the home? Help everyone in the home stay safe from fire.



Home Fire Sprinklers

Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers allows people more time to escape in a fire. When choosing an apartment or home, look for one that has home fire sprinklers.

Smoke Alarms

- » Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- » Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button. If you can't reach the alarm, ask for help.
- » For added safety, interconnect the smoke alarms. If one sounds, they all sound. This gives more time to escape.
- » Smoke alarms with sealed (long-life) batteries work for up to 10 years. They can be helpful for people who find it hard to change batteries.
- » Smoke alarms expire. Replace them every 10 years.

People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- » Smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard or hearing.
- » Strobe lights flash when the smoke alarm sounds. The lights warn people of a possible fire.
- » When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape.
- » When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device can wake them. A pillow or bed shaker may be helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.



Escape Planning

Include everyone in home escape planning. Each person should have input about the best ways to escape. Home fire drills are important. Everyone in the home must participate in them. Keep a phone by your bed in case you can't escape and need to call for help.

Talk with someone from the fire department about your escape plan. Ask them **review your plan**. Ask if your fire department keeps a directory of people who may need extra help. If you have a **service animal**, agree on a plan to keep the animal with you during an emergency.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Active Shooter Variances Changes

With the increase in school violence over the last couple of years, OSFM has met with representatives of the State Board of Education, school districts, local law enforcement and fire representatives, school resource officers and others to discuss the need for additional security/lockdown requirements that may be in opposition to the current fire and life safety codes that the state adopted.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal or our designee, inspects all K-12 schools annually under the current state statutes and adopts rules and regulations for fire and life safety codes. Our office has issued variances from the current fire and life safety codes to allow schools to make use of a number of different lockdown devices. Since last year, we have added the Fire Door Armor locking device. Our office is more than willing to continue to work with schools and local first responders to help make sure our schools are safe from any event that may happen in the future.

If there are conflicts with the fire and life safety codes that arise, our office will work with the Board of Education and the school districts to find alternative measures or issue additional variances to help better secure the schools, while at the same, not losing the fire and natural disaster safety measures that are currently in our schools

If you come across new devices and have questions, please contact our office at 785-296-3401 or by email at prevention@ks.gov. You can find additional safety information on our website at FireMarshal.ks.gov.

Acceptable devices only DURING intruder situations:

Devices such as the ones below may only be used in an actual active shooter or intruder situation and/or when drills are being performed.

- ♦ Acceptable devices should only be used after training of staff and students has been completed.
- ♦ Barricading of classroom doors as recommended in ALICE training will be allowed.
- ♦ Always be aware that students need the ability to get out in the event of fire.

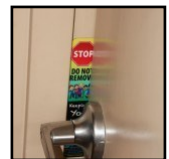
Having a clear and precise intruder plan that is practiced with local law enforcement and fire departments will help ensure the best protection for students and faculty.



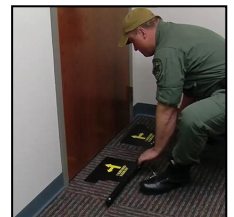
Fire Door Armor enables teachers to immediately lock a door from inside the classroom, as well as allowing responders to unlock from the outside.



Strip Magnets allow a teacher to quickly secure their classroom by removing the strip magnet from the frame, which latches the door.



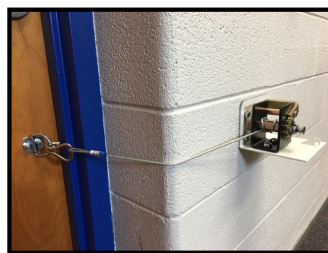
Barracuda Intruder Defense System for inward swinging doors.



Nightlock Lockdown 2



Guardian Angel Door Security Device works on OPEN IN, OPEN OUT and DOUBLE DOOR applications.



The Sleeve fits around the door's closer arm, securing the door from the inside.



Nightlock Lockdown enables teachers to immediately lock a door from inside the classroom



****Homemade lockdown devices that function like ones already approved by our office can be used in place of ones listed here. Please submit the device you are wanting to use to our office, and then we will get back with the school to let them know whether it has been approved. Contact joel.c.beckner@ks.gov for more information.**

CMS Facility Corridor Safety Rules



In a state of panic and emergency, like when a fire is happening, seconds can make a difference between life and death. That is why things like keeping a corridor free of obstructions and clutter is so important. In the recent years, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has made some changes to what can and cannot be maintained in corridors. To begin things off, non-continuous projections have to be no more than 6 inches from the corridor wall. This requirement protects people who are blind or have low vision from being injured by bumping into a protruding object that they

cannot detect with a cane. When it comes to corridor clutter, there are different requirements.

Wheeled equipment is allowed with the following requirements in place:

- Shall not reduce corridor width less than 5 feet.
- Fire Safety plan and training program needs to address the relocation during fire and other emergencies.
- Make sure your staff has the answer to the relocation.
- Limited the wheeled equipment to what is in use (CMS says more than 30 minutes).
- Patient lift and transport lift is permitted.



Fixed furniture is allowed in corridors if you meet the following:

- Corridor must be 8 feet – if you can't meet 8 feet, you can't use this allowance.
- Furniture must be securely attached to the floor or the wall.
- Not reducing less than 6 feet.
- One side of the corridor must be clear- no zig zagging back and forth.
- Grouping cannot exceed 50 square feet.
- The grouping must be separated by at least 10 feet.
- Do not obstruct LSC features or building services (i.e. manual pulls, fire extinguishers).
- Corridor must be protected by smoke detection or in direct supervision by staff

Hopefully seeing all these requirements in place will help your facility understand these requirements and keep the facility corridors clear and safe for all residents. If you have any further questions, feel free to reach out to me at joel.c.beckner@ks.gov.

CAMPFIRE SAFETY TIPS



With warmer weather fast approaching, the OSFM would like to take a moment and remind you of some safety tips when it comes to enjoying the nice weather outdoors. Here are a few good safety tips when it comes to building a fire at a campground.



1.

Look Up and Around – Make sure that you do not start a fire under low hanging branches or near bushes or brush. Keep a good radius around any camping material as well.

2.

Preparing your Pit – Clear debris in and around the fire pit including garbage and grass. If there is not a metal ring, make sure to circle the pit with rocks. Fire can spread very easily so with the rocks in place, it will stop the spread.

3.

Keep Water Nearby
– Like mentioned earlier, fires can spread very quickly so having water nearby is important so you can put out the fire quickly if things get



4.

Watchful Eye – Camping can be a fun time with friends and family and it is very easy to get distracted and leave that fire unattended. It is important to always be alert and around when the fire is still going.



5.

Extinguishing Before Bed – When you finally head off to bed, make sure to always put out the fire. Put water or dirt of the fire to put it out. It is a good idea to stir the embers around with a shovel to make sure that a fire will not start and best case the coals should be wet and cold.



This time of the year is always a blast with families and friends planning their camping trips to enjoy the great outdoors. Please take caution when it comes to fire, and keep our campsites safe.

Decorative Pillows Recalled Due to Fire Hazards

Several fire hazard recalls announced by United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

Name of product: Decorative Cushions

Hazard: The cushions can catch fire if exposed to an ignition source, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: April 18, 2018

Units: About 14,500



Name of product: Ambiano mini deep fryers

Hazard: The deep fryer heating element can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: May 10, 2018

Units: About 35,000



Name of product: Square D brand

Square D brand General Duty 30 & 60A, 120/240-volt, 2-phase and 3-phase NEMA 3R Safety Switches

Hazard: The power can stay on when the safety switch handle is in the "OFF" position, posing an electrical shock or electrocution hazard to consumers.

Remedy: Replace

Recall date: April 17, 2018

Units: About 1,079,000



Name of product: Nickelodeon PAW PATROL Deluxe Marshall Hat with flashlight

Hazard: The batteries in the flashlight can overheat, causing the flashlight to become hot, posing burn and fire hazards.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: April 5, 2018

Units: About 20,000 (In addition, about 1,500 were sold in Canada)

For more information on these recalls and others and to sign up for direct recall notifications, please visit www.cpsc.gov.

2018 KAPIO Conference, Emporia, KS



Public Information Officers from across the state at the Red Rocks State Historical site, home of William Allen White, in Emporia during the 2018 Kansas Association of Public Information Officers Conference. The conference, which was held May 4-5, 2018, was hosted by Emporia State University.

Home Fire Sprinklers

Over 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. Home fire sprinklers can save lives and property from fire. They respond quickly and effectively to fire, often extinguishing the fire before the fire department arrives. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Home fire sprinklers save lives and property. In many situations, a family who has survived a fire will also have their "home" to live in and enough of the items and space in their home to continue living their lives as they did before.
- » The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath.
Source: Fire Protection Research Foundation Study 2013.
- » A home fire sprinkler system can reduce the homeowner's insurance premium.
- » Fire departments typically use roughly 10 times as much water as a fire sprinkler would use to contain a fire.
Source: Fire Protection Research Foundation Study 2010.
- » Fire sprinklers are environmentally friendly. They can reduce the amount of water run-off and pollution, fire damage by up to 71%, and water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%.
Source: FM Global and Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Study 2010.
- » Cigar smoke or burnt toast will not activate a fire sprinkler. Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler.
- » A home fire sprinkler system is easy to maintain. Just inspect your home to make sure the sprinklers are not blocked by something that would prevent the water from coming out such as paint and be sure the main control valve is never turned off.
- » Home fire sprinklers are effective in cold and warm climates. Guidelines have been created for the proper installation of systems to avoid pipes freezing. A home fire sprinkler system should be winterized the same as you winterize a domestic water supply.

And Don't Forget...

- ➔ If **MOVING** into an apartment or condominium building, make sure common areas and individual apartments are sprinklered.
- ➔ If **BUILDING** a new home or remodeling an existing home, consider installing a home fire sprinkler system.

FACTS

- ! More than **2,500** people die in home fires each year.
- ! If a home fire occurs, the risk of dying decreases by about **80%** when the home is equipped with a fire sprinkler system.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

